



**EMORY C. MCCLINTON**  
District 5

132 E. Lake Drive, SE  
Atlanta, Georgia 30317  
404.377.5101  
404.373.3371 (Fax)

emccclinton@dot.ga.gov

As you know, the State Inspector General’s Office and the Office of Audits and Accounts recently re-released a much-publicized report on how the Department manages its budget. The fact of the matter is, despite all the political noise the report created, it was essentially just a retelling of findings that had been made a year ago – and which the Department had already corrected. There was no corruption, no missing funds; it was simply a bookkeeping matter that, as I said, has been corrected. We need now to get on with the important business of transportation and that is what we intend to do.

**SPECIAL NOTE**

A special **GDOT Budget** newsletter will be released late next week.

Topics covered will include a review of Fiscal Year 2009, the proposed Fiscal Year 2010 Budget, an analysis of how the Department balanced the FY2009 books as of June 30, 2009, and transportation funding needs for Georgia.

**BOARD ACTIVITY AUGUST 19-20  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA**

The State Transportation Board held its regularly scheduled meetings on August 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>. A total of 28 project lettings were approved for September totaling over \$155 million. During FY09, the Board approved lettings for 280 contracts valued at over \$533 million for projects across the 13 Congressional Districts. In addition to the full Board meeting on August 20<sup>th</sup>, four committees met in advance: Public Private Partnerships (P3); Legislative; Administrative; and Finance. Below are highlights of these meetings.



*Board Members discuss financial issues during the August 20th meeting.*

**Public Private Partnerships (P3)** - Assistant Treasurer Earl Mahfuz provided an overview of the recent progress made on Public Private Partnerships – or what is now called P3. In the past couple of months, the Department has established a steering committee for determining project parameters, has compiled a draft list of potential P3 projects for Georgia as now required by law, had an internal workshop with RBC and Nossaman. Additionally, Mahfuz confirmed that despite the economic downturn, there are still firms interested in investing in P3 projects. He also stated that the Department intends to hold an industry-wide forum for potential investors later this fiscal year. Key areas being considered for P3 projects are:

- Managed Lane System Plan Projects
- IT3 Capacity Improvement Projects
- High Speed Rail National Network—Georgia Corridors
- Intercity Passenger Rail Program Projects
- Downtown Atlanta Multimodal Passenger Terminal

**Legislative** - Commissioner Vance C. Smith, Jr., addressed the Committee, stating that the Department must carry the torch for funding in Georgia. Key emphasis should be placed on making sure transportation options meet the needs of citizens and businesses.

**Administrative** - Chief Operating Officer Steve Henry presented a proposal on changing the Department’s existing LOGO program. The LOGO program is the signage on exit ramps advising motorists of fuel, lodging and food establishments at the exit. The current program contract expires on June 30, 2010. Each year, the Department receives \$3.25 million in revenue from the contract. Staff is recommending the Board consider a new fee structure and the addition of both pharmacies and RV friendly categories of signage. Several Board members requested additional information on the history and projections for the program. Additionally, it was questioned if the current vendor would consider renewing the existing contract for a 1-yr term. The Committee took no action.

**Finance** - Treasurer Kate Pfirman advised the committee that \$30 million in de-authorizations had been realized, bringing the total to approximately \$190 million since the project implementation.

Kate Pfirman reviewed the status of FY09. These figures are unaudited, **but the Department ended the year with a balanced budget. There is an estimated surplus of \$577 million.** but it is important to note that this figure includes Federal funds which could not be used without creating a larger motor fuel deficit. The Department also complied with Governor Perdue’s mandate that each agency lapse funds back to the State Treasury - for GDOT, the amount was \$1 million, reducing our intermodal and data collections activities since it is regular state funds.

For FY 2010, the budget is being compiled based on the worst case scenario of the Governor’s potential mandated cuts of 4%, 6% or 8%. **Preparing for a required reduction of an additional 8% of State General Funds directly impacts the aviation, transit and data collections programs,** and brings the total amended budget request is \$2.184 billion. The official request must be presented to OPB by September 30, 2009. The Committee will make a final review of the FY10 amended budget request in the September meetings.

**TIGER Grant Criteria  
Transportation Infrastructure Generating  
Economic Recovery—\$1.5 Billion Nationally**

- All applications are due via email by September 15th
- Grants may be no less than \$20M and not greater than \$300M
- No more than \$300M will be awarded to any single state
- Funds can be used to cover 100% of project
- Priority given to grants that fill a financial gap
- Priority given to projects to be completed by February 17, 2012

**GDOT APPLICATIONS FOR FIVE PROJECTS  
ARE UNDER DEVELOPMENT:**

*I-20 Eastside Collector-Distributor (CD) Lanes  
in DeKalb County*

*I-75 South Managed Lanes in Henry County*

*Jimmy Deloach Parkway Extension at the  
Savannah Port*

*Truman Parkway Phase V in Chatham County*

*Commuter Rail—Atlanta to Macon*

**September Lettings in CD 5**

**CLAYTON COUNTY**

**I-20; I-75; I-85; I-285 & I-675 @  
14 LOCS**

**Bridge Rehabilitation with No  
Added Capacity**

**PROPOSED STEEL BEAM  
REPAIR @ 14 LOCS -  
STATEWIDE**

**Bridge Rehabilitation with No  
Added Capacity**

**Todd I. Long, P.E., P.T.O.E.  
Confirmed by House Transportation  
Committee as Director of Planning**

On Wednesday, August 19th, the membership of the House Transportation Committee unanimously confirmed Governor Perdue’s appointment of Todd Long as the new Director of Planning at GDOT. In his capacity, Long will be responsible for a variety of planning and reporting requirements.

*Members of the  
House Transportation  
Committee  
question Long at  
the hearing.*



**American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Updates**

**Phase 1**

- GDOT Exceeded the 50% Obligation of Funds for Phase 1 by the Deadline of June 30th
- To Date – 75 Highway/Aviation Projects given Notices to Proceed (NTP) Valued at Over \$144 Million in Contracts
- All MPO’s Sub-Allocated Highway Projects are Certified (except Augusta)
- GDOT ARRA Reporting to USDOT Well Underway
- Approximately \$100 Million in ARRA highway funds from Phase 1 Rolled Over into Phase 2 Due to Low Contract Bids and Moving Contingencies to Another Fund Source

**Phase 2**

- Board Approved Highway Projects Total \$492 Million in Phase 2
- 62% of Funding in Economically Distressed Areas (EDA)
- Federal Government designates an EDA as one which meets the following criteria:
  1. *Unemployment rate for past 24 months must be 1% or more above the national average, or*
  2. *The per capita or personal income is 80% or less than the national average*
- GDOT will Maximize Number of Individual Contracts
- Transit Call For Projects for Small Urban and Rural Systems for outstanding \$4.6 M in Phase 2– due September 25th

**BOARD APPROVED PHASE 2 ARRA PROJECTS CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT 5**

Cong Dist	County	Description	Work Type	Construction Total within Cong Dist	Economically Dis- tressed Area
5	FULTON	SR 141/PTREE RD CORRIDOR IMP FM SR 400 TO ROXBORO RD	Median Work	\$15,000,000	NO

*Next Board Meeting September 17th —Atlanta*

**Please call me at 404.377.5101 or email me at  
emccclinton@dot.ga.gov, and let me know your comments,  
concerns and suggestions about anything related to the Georgia  
Department of Transportation and its programs.**